RÉCEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

FEB 1 8 2004

Attorney Docket: 021123-0284139 Client Reference: 990042BT-B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Confirmation Number: 3604

OFFICIAL

Tilg et al.

Application No.: 10/024,370

Group Art Unit: 1653

Filed: December 21, 2001

Examiner: M. N. Rao

Title: Method to Monitor a Fermentation Process

February 18, 2004

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to an official action dated November 18, 2003, wherein the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraph. The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the following amendments and remarks.